

## **High Representative meets Croat officials of the Federation of BiH**

The High Representative, Wolfgang Petritsch, yesterday met with Federation President Karlo Filipovic, Croat members of the Federation Government, Nikola Grabovac, Mijo Anic, Zvonko Mijan, Dubravko Lovrenovic, and Mladen Ivankovic, the Chair of the Federation House of Peoples, Ivo Komsic, and the acting Chair of the Federation House of Representatives, Ivan Brigic, to discuss current issues in the Federation of BiH as well as efforts to ensure the full equality of Croats, as a Constituent People, in Bosnia and Hercegovina.

The High Representative and the Croat officials agreed that the Federation authorities will continue working towards securing the real and full equality of Peoples, the active role of Croat decision-making in the capacity of a Constituent People, and the creation of mechanisms to protect their vital interests through the implementation of the Constitutional Court Decision on the Constituent Peoples.

The participants at the meeting agreed that it is important to find an appropriate solution to the controversial issue of Aluminium Mostar, based on applicable laws. The fact that positive achievements of the Federation authorities, such as the efforts to consolidate the situation in the Federation Army, systemic assistance of the Federation Government to the Posavina Canton Budget, arranging intervention payments to rectify the consequences of the floods in Posavina, payments for HVO war invalids, and the reconstruction of Capljina Bridge, have not received appropriate appreciation was also mentioned during the meeting.

The High Representative and the Croat politicians stressed the importance of this dialogue and their willingness to continue their exchange on issues related to constitutional changes and the status of Croats in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Accordingly, the Croat Representatives of the Federation authorities and the OHR will meet in the future on a regular basis under the co-chairmanship of the Federation President, Karlo Filipovic, and the Senior Deputy High Representative, Matthias Sonn.